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Twenty-second progress report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire

I. Introduction

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to resolution 1880 (2009), by which the Security Council extended the mandate of the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI) and the French Licorne force until 31 January 2010, and requested me to report, by the end of September 2009, on the situation in Côte d'Ivoire and on progress towards achieving the key benchmarks proposed in my report of 8 January 2009 (S/2009/21). The present report covers major developments since my report of 7 July 2009 (S/2009/344). The benchmarks and indicators of progress are set out in annex I to the present report.

II. Security situation

2. The security atmosphere in Côte d'Ivoire continued to show sustained improvement, with increased free movement of people and the resumption of commercial activities throughout the country. However, the crime rate has remained high in most parts of the country, in particular in the west. During the period under review, unidentified individuals armed with Kalashnikovs and machetes attacked private homes and public transport vehicles, creating a general sense of insecurity in the area. At least 48 such attacks were reported in both urban and rural areas of Duekoué, Guiglo, Man, Bouaké, Bondouko, Moussadougou, Binao, Mankono, Kani, Daloa and other areas of the Sassandra, Cavally and Montagnes regions in particular. Those attacks, which resulted in the deaths of seven persons and in serious injuries to several others, were in many instances accompanied by grave human rights abuses, including sexual violence. Very few arrests were made by the police.

3. Acts of violence by youth groups were reported in several Government-controlled areas. In Kokomia, a youth group was at the heart of inter-community clashes during which homes and property were destroyed. In the Port Bouët neighbourhood of Abidjan, 200 members of the student union, the Fédération estudiantine et scolaire de Côte d'Ivoire, violently attacked the mayor's office and threatened the mayor, who is a member of the opposition Parti démocratique de Côte d'Ivoire

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4. Overall, the security situation remains fragile and susceptible to deteriorate given the many unresolved aspects of the peace process, including the incomplete disarmament of Forces nouvelles elements and dismantling of pro-Government militias, the inability of the Integrated Command Centre to fully deploy the mixed brigades, the unresolved issues related to the reunification of the security forces and the slow pace of progress in the re-establishment of rule-of-law institutions in the western and northern parts of the country.

III. Status of implementation of the Ouagadougou Political Agreement

5. Significant progress was made in the implementation of key aspects of the Ouagadougou Political Agreement, including the completion of the identification and voter registration operations on 30 June 2009, and the beginning of the compilation of the provisional electoral list. The deadlines for completing the latter were, however, missed. Progress in other important areas has remained slow, in particular the implementation of the fourth supplementary agreement, which addresses issues related to security and the reunification of the country.

A. Reunification

6. The fourth supplementary agreement provides for the following: (a) the disarmament of the former combatants of the Forces nouvelles and the dismantling of the militias, two months before the elections; (b) the reunification of Ivorian defence and security forces; (c) the effective redeployment of State administration throughout the country, including the *corps préfectoral* (local authorities), the judiciary and the fiscal and customs administration; and (d) the centralization of the treasury.

7. On 9 August, the Facilitator of the Ivorian peace process, President Blaise Compaoré of Burkina Faso, convened the seventh meeting of the Evaluation and Monitoring Committee to review progress in the implementation of the Ouagadougou Political Agreements. Prime Minister Guillaume Soro, representatives of the presidential camp, representatives of the Forces nouvelles and all members of the International Consultative Organ attended the meeting. The participants emphasized the need to provide effective security at all stages of the electoral process. They also agreed that the remaining security-related issues should be resolved in a timely manner, in particular the harmonization of the ranks of the 5,000 personnel from Forces nouvelles who should join the national army, the cantonment of those elements, the deployment by the Integrated Command Centre of 8,000 personnel (4,000 from the Forces nouvelles and 4,000 from the Ivorian police and gendarmerie) in mixed brigades, and the effective centralization of the treasury. They also stressed that adequate additional financial and logistical resources should be secured to allow for the achievement of those tasks, which are critical to the completion of the process of the reunification of the country.

8. On 19 August, Mr. Amani N'Guessan, the Minister of Defence of Côte d'Ivoire, announced that a committee had been established to resolve the impasse on the issue of rank harmonization and allow for the adoption of a presidential decree on the matter. However, discussions on this issue are still

ongoing among the parties. On 25 August, during a ceremony in Bouaké, the Defence Minister relaunched the process of deploying mixed brigades; the planned deployment of the mixed brigades in Daloa and Korhogo has yet to materialize. As at 14 September, of the expected 8,000 elements, only 601, drawn from both the Forces nouvelles and the Ivorian national police and gendarmerie services, had been deployed in Abidjan and Bouaké. In addition, the deployed brigades, whose main task is to provide security for the implementation of the Ouagadougou Political Agreement, in particular the electoral process, still lack the capacities and resources required to effectively carry out that responsibility. Meanwhile, the cantonment of the 5,000 Forces nouvelles elements that should be integrated into the national army remains at a standstill, owing, among other things, to the lack of a legal framework governing the integration process and to the absence of adequate facilities for cantonment.

9. Following a request from the Minister of Defence, UNOCI provided support to the Integrated Command Centre in the form of bedding and accommodation equipment to facilitate the cantonment operations and the deployment of the mixed brigades. UNOCI continues to work with national authorities to identify and address the obstacles to the cantonment of the Forces nouvelles personnel and the deployment of mixed brigades. Despite the technical and logistical support provided by UNOCI, the lack of adequate financial resources for the integrated command centre and the mixed brigades continued to impede the work of those important security institutions. Those Forces nouvelles personnel who are already serving in the mixed brigades have yet to be paid, while their counterparts from the Ivorian police and gendarmerie received regular salaries.

10. Following the ceremony to transfer authority from the Forces nouvelles zone commanders to the *corps préfectoral* in May 2009, the prefects have started taking administrative decisions in the northern areas controlled by the Forces nouvelles. However, the authority of the prefects to enforce administrative decisions and maintain public order is still hampered by the absence of operational units from the Integrated Command Centre.

11. With regard to customs and tax offices, although some personnel have been deployed and office rehabilitation works have started, most facilities remain largely unsuitable for use and lack the required equipment. In the meantime, the Forces nouvelles continued to collect taxes in the north and have requested the inclusion of Forces nouvelles-affiliated personnel in all fiscal and financial services, including customs, treasury and tax offices. To that end, a list of 100 individuals is currently being considered by the Ministry of Finance.

12. During the reporting period, uneven progress was made in the redeployment of the judiciary to the north. Despite the nomination of two additional chief judges in Bouaké and Korhogo, difficulties persisted at the Korhogo court, which lacked the number of magistrates required to reach the mandatory quorum for handling its regular caseload, including decisions on challenges and appeals related to the electoral list.

13. The date for reopening all prisons in the Forces nouvelles-controlled areas remains undetermined, as it is contingent upon the redeployment of the judicial police. An order was signed by the Minister of Justice and Human Rights for the redeployment of prison directors to 11 prisons in the north, but it has yet to be implemented. In the meantime, UNOCI trained 102 newly recruited prison officers in law enforcement and crowd control during the reporting period.

B. Disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of former combatants and dismantling of militias

14. The national programme for reinsertion and community rehabilitation, in collaboration with the Integrated Command Centre, continued to review the preliminary list of 37,451 profiled pro-Government militias. It is expected that 25,000 people will be on the final list of militia personnel eligible for reintegration support. However, less than two months before the election date of 29 November, the disarmament process remains to be fully completed. The main challenge is the unavailability of the $1,000 demobilization allowance for each ex-combatant and militia member.

15. The national institutions responsible for implementing the reintegration programme continue to lack the resources required to undertake this important task. Consequently, only a portion of the already demobilized ex-combatants have been provided with reintegration opportunities through official Government channels. To address that gap and also contribute to the creation of enabling conditions for the elections, UNOCI, in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and with resources from the Peacebuilding Fund, continued to provide short-term reinsertion assistance through 525 micro-projects in 23 locations, benefiting a total of 3,407 ex-combatants, militias, young people at risk and women affected by the conflict. An evaluation of the micro-projects, carried out by my Special Representative, Choi Young-Jin, from 18 to 21 August in Bouaké, Séguéla, Daloa, Issia and San-Pédro, revealed that some 80 per cent of the micro-projects have been successfully implemented and continue to provide income beyond their project life to beneficiaries. A joint review mission by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, UNDP and the Peacebuilding Support Office also travelled to Côte d'Ivoire from 30 August to 5 September to assess the impact of the micro-projects as a part of a review of the Peacebuilding Fund-supported priority plan. The review concluded that the micro-projects had played a critical role in helping to reduce tensions among ex-combatants and contributed to creating a secure environment in many areas in the country. The continuation of those projects is therefore crucial as a stopgap measure pending the full implementation of the Government's reintegration programmes. However, available funding is insufficient to cover the full caseload of ex-combatants and militias, and it will be imperative that other partners provide financial support to this process.

C. Elections

16. All Ivorian leaders are strongly committed to creating the necessary conditions for the conduct of the presidential elections, which are scheduled for 29 November. In his address on the eve of the Côte d'Ivoire independence celebrations on 7 August, President Laurent Gbagbo reaffirmed that there would be no more political obstacles to holding the presidential election as scheduled. Meanwhile, opposition party leaders, while pursuing their pre-campaigning activities in various parts of the country, including in areas commonly known as the strongholds of the ruling party, also reiterated that commitment.

17. My Special Representative continued to explain his certification mandate to the Ivorian stakeholders and the public. In July, he met with the then-President of the Constitutional Council, Mr. Yanon Yapo Germain, to discuss the modalities

concerning the certification. The Constitutional Council is responsible for validating the list of candidates for the presidential and legislative elections, arbitrating electoral disputes during the preparatory stages and polling, and announcing the final results of the elections. On 8 August, President Gbagbo signed a decree appointing Mr. Paul Yao N'Dré as the new President of the Constitutional Council. Leaders of the opposition political parties criticized the appointment, saying they had not been consulted.

18. Following the completion of the identification and voter registration operations on 30 June, the Independent Electoral Commission released the official results of those operations during the meeting of the Evaluation and Monitoring Committee held on 9 August. A total of 6,552,694 people had registered, including 38,496 Ivorians who registered in operations conducted in 23 foreign countries.

19. On 23 July, the Independent Electoral Commission published a timeline for the remaining key stages of the electoral process as follows: (a) the publication of the provisional electoral list on 29 August; (b) the publication of the final electoral list following the conclusion of the appeals process between 15 and 21 October; (c) the production of identification and voter cards by 20 October; (d) the distribution of identification and voter cards by 26 November; and (e) the electoral campaign period, from 13 to 27 November.

20. The operations to process identification and voter registration data and produce the provisional electoral list were launched on 21 July. As reported in my letter to the President of the Security Council (S/2009/446) dated 4 September, the parties missed the deadline to publish the provisional list on 29 August. The office of the Prime Minister subsequently announced that the provisional electoral list would be published on 15 September. However, that deadline was also missed, owing mainly to technical challenges and strike actions by unpaid workers.

21. On 25 August, President Gbagbo signed legal texts aimed mainly at compressing the timelines of the electoral process and aligning the legal framework with anticipated delays, in order to meet the 29 November election date. These included decree 2009/270, which regularized the duration of the concluded voter registration operations, carried out between 15 September 2008 and 30 June 2009, by amending an earlier decree that had set 30 October 2008 as the deadline for completing the voter registration process; ordinance 2009/268, which compressed the time for displaying the provisional electoral list from three months to 30 days prior to the elections; and ordinance 2009/269, which compressed the time for completing the distribution of voter cards from two weeks to eight days prior to the elections.

22. In announcing that the new 15 September deadline for the publication of the provisional electoral list had not been met, the Independent Electoral Commission disclosed, on the same day, that 95 per cent of the identification and voter registration data had been processed and that efforts were under way by the Office of the Prime Minister and the technical operators to complete the data processing, indicating that the delay in publishing the provisional electoral list would be limited. One processing centre, in Duekoué, in the western part of the country, had yet to start processing data as at 15 September.

23. Meanwhile, the Integrated Command Centre, while reviewing arrangements to secure the electoral process, including the security of the coordination centres,

reported numerous logistical and financial challenges that continued to impede its ability to fully deliver on that responsibility. As at 20 August, the centre was providing security at 35 of the 70 coordination centres.

24. UNOCI continued to provide assistance to the electoral process, including procurement of electoral materials, with support from UNDP, and in preparations to help transport those materials, including the sensitive provisional electoral list and voter cards, to 70 departments countrywide. UNOCI also continued to provide technical assistance on the development of manuals and guidance for the handling of disputes related to the electoral list. Furthermore, UNDP financed a seminar, held in Yamoussoukro on 27 and 28 August, to strengthen the capacity of 135 magistrates and court clerks.

25. As indicated in my previous report (S/2009/344), UNOCI continued preparations for coordinating and facilitating international election observation activities. The Carter Centre already has an established observation presence in the country, while Japan has announced that it will soon deploy an election observation mission. In addition, evaluation missions are expected from the African Union, the European Union, the International Organization of la Francophonie and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), to determine the scale and deployment dates of their observer missions.

IV. Deployment of the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire

A. Military component

26. As at 22 September 2009, the military strength of UNOCI stood at 7,218 personnel, including 6,932 troops, 192 military observers and 94 staff officers, against an authorized ceiling of 7,450. There are 94 women in the force. An Egyptian engineer company is expected to complete its deployment in October, following the withdrawal of a French engineer company in April.

27. The UNOCI force, which has been reconfigured pursuant to Security Council resolution 1865 (2009), conducted exercises to test the readiness of its rapid-response capability. The current force configuration, with a battalion-sized force reserve, two company-sized sector reserves and increased mobility, including through airlift capacities, enhances the flexibility of the force and allows for rapid response to potential threats, including in support of the Integrated Command Centre. As requested by the Security Council in its resolution 1880 (2009), the UNOCI military concept of operations and rules of engagement were updated to align them with the new posture of the force.

28. Within the framework of inter-mission cooperation, UNOCI and the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) are finalizing plans for the temporary redeployment of one infantry company and two utility helicopters from UNMIL to Côte d'Ivoire, in order to support UNOCI during the upcoming elections. I intend, once the agreement of the concerned troop-contributing countries has been secured and the Government of Côte d'Ivoire has been informed, to request the authorization of the Security Council for this temporary redeployment, in accordance with the provisions of resolution 1609 (2005).

29. Following Licorne's force reduction, its strength stands at 900 personnel, deployed primarily in the Abidjan area. The Security Council, in its resolution 1880 (2009), extended the authorization it provided to the French Licorne forces to support UNOCI, within the limits of their deployment and capabilities, until 31 January 2010.

B. Police component

30. As at 22 September, UNOCI police strength stood at 1,180, including 432 police officers and 748 officers in six formed police units, with 21 and 2 women, officers respectively. During the reporting period, the UNOCI police component continued to provide advice and training to the national police and gendarmerie in the Government-controlled areas, as well as support to the Integrated Command Centre in planning the deployment of the 8,000 elements who should secure the electoral process. Support, advice and mentoring were also provided to the 600 security auxiliaries trained by UNOCI in 2006 and deployed in the northern part of the country and in the former zone of confidence.

31. The mission continued to assist in the restructuring of the national gendarmerie and police and to provide support for capacity-building projects in the areas of general police training, forensics, conduct and ethics and crowd control. The six formed police units continued to protect United Nations personnel, installations and equipment. They also carried out regular joint patrols with other United Nations components and national counterparts to maintain a safe and secure environment within their areas of responsibility.

V. Humanitarian situation

32. During the period under review, humanitarian activities remained focused on the strategic priorities developed for 2009 by the Inter-Agency Humanitarian Coordination Committee in Côte d'Ivoire: the reinsertion and protection of internally displaced persons, largely in the western part of the country, and malnutrition in the north of the country.

33. UNOCI, United Nations agencies and humanitarian partners reinforced their collaboration with local authorities in monitoring and supporting the return and reintegration of internally displaced persons. By 31 July, 80,036 such persons had voluntarily returned to their areas of origin in the west, according to humanitarian actors. The remaining caseload of approximately 40,000 internally displaced persons continued to live with host families, particularly in the departments of Bloléquin and Guiglo. Land disputes continued to affect prospects for a sustainable socio-economic reintegration of returning populations. Those developments constitute a serious threat to inter-community cohesion, despite the efforts made by local authorities, in collaboration with humanitarian partners, to reach common, agreed solutions with youth groups and community leaders.

34. The results of a survey on food security conducted in 9 regions throughout the country in July by the Ministry of Agriculture, in collaboration with the World Food Programme, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the National Statistics Institute, should be released in September 2009. This is the first in-depth survey conducted since 2006.

VI. Human rights

35. Despite generally stable security conditions in the country, the human rights situation remained precarious during the reporting period. In part, this was related to inter-community tensions over access to land, in particular in the western part of the country, or to violations committed by violent youth groups, referred to in paragraph 3 above.

36. In the northern part of the country, respect for human rights remained generally poor, despite the partial redeployment of the justice administration. Forces nouvelles elements committed serious human rights violations, including killings, acts of torture and ill-treatment, racketeering, and arbitrary arrests and detentions, including detention for civil debt.

37. Women and girls' rights deteriorated countrywide with the persistence of sexual and gender-based violence. UNOCI registered a total of 53 instances of rape involving victims as young as 7 year of age, as well as pregnant and disabled women. UNOCI human rights officers documented eight cases of forced marriage. They referred victims of sexual violence to specialized centres for medical and psychological assistance, systematically prompted families to file complaints with the police and closely followed cases with law-enforcement officials to ensure that protective measures were effectively taken.

38. During the reporting period, UNOCI conducted awareness-raising activities on human rights, targeting 16,090 people, to strengthen national capacities and address existing gaps. Beneficiaries were trained and sensitized on key human rights issues such as women's rights and sexual and gender-based violence, child rights, human rights and elections, as well as the use of firearms and excessive force. UNOCI also continued to work closely with national counterparts towards the implementation of the national action plan for human rights education, which is aimed at incorporating compulsory human rights education into primary and secondary school curricula in Côte d'Ivoire.

VII. Gender

39. UNOCI trained newly deployed military, police and civilian staff on gender aspects in peacekeeping. UNOCI assisted various local organizations in building their capacities to enhance women's participation in the peace process, national reconstruction and elections at all levels of decision-making. Following the celebration of the first anniversary of Security Council resolution 1820 (2008), the efforts of UNOCI to combat sexual violence and, specifically, female genital mutilation translated into the establishment of a dedicated advocacy group comprising local women leaders.

VIII. Child protection

40. Pursuant to Security Council resolution 1612 (2005), UNOCI continued to monitor and report violations committed against children. Sexual violence against children persisted across the country, particularly in the northern and western areas. Incidents involving the killing or maiming of children as a result of ritual practices

were reported. In addition, 15 cases of child trafficking involving Burkinabé children aged 8 to 16 were reported in Soubré. Three of the victims were reunited with their families, while the other 12 escaped from the Soubré social centre, where they had been sheltered by the German Technical Cooperation Agency and local authorities.

41. In order to enhance child-protection arrangements, UNOCI, United Nations agencies and international non-governmental organizations strengthened monitoring mechanisms. UNOCI also maintained regular consultations with national institutions to improve the legal framework protecting children's rights in Côte d'Ivoire. In that context, UNOCI, together with the United Nations Children's Fund, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and international non-governmental organizations, supported the Ministry of Women, Family and Social Welfare in organizing awareness-raising campaigns on violations against children, including training on sexual violence for social workers as well as community and religious leaders.

IX. HIV/AIDS

42. With a view to mainstreaming HIV/AIDS aspects into the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration process, UNOCI pursued its sensitization project for ex-combatants, in partnership with the United Nations Population Fund, UNDP, the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS and the Integrated Command Centre. In addition, UNOCI, the Ministry for the Fight against AIDS and local non-governmental organizations trained 90 peer educators and sensitized 590 prison inmates and 23 correctional officers on aspects of HIV/AIDS. As part of its usual internal outreach, UNOCI sensitized 573 military, police and civilian staff on issues related to HIV/AIDS, while voluntary individual counselling and testing services were offered to 136 personnel.

X. Economic recovery and financial support to the peace process

43. Côte d'Ivoire reached the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) decision point in March 2009. The debt-sustainability analysis completed at that time shows that the country is in debt distress. Côte d'Ivoire had already received about 55 per cent of its estimated HIPC debt relief by March 2009, but it obtained significant further relief from the Paris Club in May — the immediate cancellation of $845 million in official bilateral debt and an agreement to reduce bilateral debt service by 92 per cent during the International Monetary Fund-supported programme period. Negotiations are ongoing with the London Club of commercial creditors. In addition, approximately $2 billion in debt relief is expected to be delivered through the Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative by the World Bank Group, the African Development Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) once the HIPC completion point had been reached. A joint World Bank/IMF review mission was present in Côte d'Ivoire in early September 2009 in order to ensure follow-up at the level of execution by the Ivorian authorities of their national budget. Preliminary findings suggest that budget execution is on track. The World Bank and IMF could approve, in November 2009, additional budget support amounting to $50 million.

44. Efforts by the United Nations and the international community to mobilize funds to support the implementation of the Ouagadougou Political Agreement continued. The two basket funds established and administered by UNDP to support the electoral process and the national "Programme de sortie de crise" continued to receive external funding. To date, of the $48 million earmarked for the basket fund for the elections, $11 million has been disbursed. Meanwhile, the $22 million raised for the basket fund in support of the Government's "Programme de sortie de crise" were disbursed in support of various initiatives envisaged in the Ouagadougou Political Agreement, including the redeployment of State administration, the return of internally displaced persons and reinsertion programmes for former combatants.

45. Pursuant to paragraph 22 of Security Council resolution 1865 (2009), support for the facilitation of the inter-Ivorian direct dialogue and the Special Representative of the Facilitator continued. During the period under review, the project, executed by the United Nations Office for Project Services, received contributions from the Peacebuilding Fund, the World Bank and the European Union, through ECOWAS, in addition to earlier contributions from France and Norway.

XI. Media monitoring and public information

46. During the period under review, UNOCI continued its consultations with key institutions in charge of monitoring the Ivorian media, including the Ministry of Communication, the National Council for Audiovisual Communication and the National Press Council, in particular with regard to the modalities of media coverage during the electoral period and the role of the media during the electoral disputes period. At the same time, UNOCI, through its radio station in particular, continued to sensitize the population with regard to the peace process. UNOCI also conducted a variety of outreach activities to help reinforce social cohesion at the community level, so as to contribute to a peaceful environment.

XII. Personnel conduct and discipline

47. UNOCI continued to work towards full compliance with my zero-tolerance policy on sexual exploitation and abuse. In that regard, a number of military contingents were visited by the mission's Conduct and Discipline Team, which reiterated the importance of the policy and assessed the implementation of preventative measures, including in situations where the staff of local non-governmental organizations and the local population live and work in the vicinity of military camps. UNOCI also continued to cooperate with the Office of Internal Oversight Services on investigations into allegations of misconduct by UNOCI personnel.

XIII. Safety and security of personnel

48. No major incidents involving United Nations civilian personnel or premises were reported during the period under review. However, all security measures applicable to United Nations staff continued to be strictly enforced, in view of the prevalent security risks. In addition, the high incidence of traffic accidents,

including ones that involved United Nations vehicles, and the resulting serious injuries remained of concern and prompted the implementation of a driver-safety awareness campaign.

XIV. Observations

49. I welcome the completion of the identification and voter registration operation, which resulted in the registration of more than 6.5 million Ivorians. That is a significant achievement and a major step towards securing lasting peace, considering that the identification of the population was one of the issues at the core of the crisis that had divided the country.

50. The main challenge now is for the concerned national institutions to complete the electoral process in earnest and organize open, free, fair and transparent elections. This requires the preparation of the final electoral list through a transparent and credible process. The publication of the provisional electoral list, as well as the process of resolving any disputes emanating from that list, will be a critical test of the success of the identification and voter registration process. I urge all Ivorians to address any challenges to the provisional list through the established legal channels and to maintain the prevailing climate of calm and stability. My Special Representative, following consultations with all parties, had already publicly endorsed the credibility and transparency of the operations conducted to identify and register the voters. In keeping with his certification mandate, he will similarly certify the stages up to the completion of the preparation of the final voters list.

51. The decrees and ordnances passed on 25 August by the Government of Côte d'Ivoire to minimize electoral delays by compressing the remaining key stages show a commendable determination on the part of the Ivorian authorities to conduct the elections as scheduled, on 29 November. At the same time, it is important to ensure that the process of compressing the timeline is conducted in a manner that does not undermine the overall electoral process. In this regard, I call on the Government of Côte d'Ivoire to provide the necessary resources to enable the relevant national institutions to complete the remaining tasks in a timely and transparent manner.

52. While Côte d'Ivoire has completed most of its long journey to the elections, the remaining distance is fraught with major challenges. Many of the uncompleted tasks, for example, the disarmament and dismantling of the militias and the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of Forces nouvelles elements, could create serious risks for the elections if they are not carefully managed, and, beyond the elections, adversely affect the prevailing stability. I therefore urge the Ivorian parties to sustain the spirit of dialogue and compromise in managing those issues.

53. The positive and calm political and security climate in which the pre-electoral campaigning activities have been conducted is very encouraging and bodes well for the elections. I urge all Ivorians to preserve this atmosphere of calm as they complete the remaining delicate tasks, including the finalization of the electoral list. It is also important for the Ivorian parties to commit to continuing to work together after the elections in order to complete the reunification-related tasks set out in the fourth supplementary agreement to the Ouagadougou Agreement and rebuild their country. As with elections, the international community, including UNOCI, stands

ready to provide a supporting role to the Ivorian parties and institutions in their efforts to advance the reunification agenda before and after the elections.

54. As other examples around the world have shown, if not managed properly and transparently, the electoral process — which is intended to consolidate peace and democracy — could become a source of instability. In addition to taking measures to mitigate the security-related challenges referred to above in the period leading to the elections, it will also be important to carefully manage the sensitive period immediately following the elections. In this regard, I would like to encourage the Ivorian leaders to maintain a commitment to the spirit of mutual accommodation, reconciliation and inclusiveness in the post-electoral period.

55. UNOCI will continue to assist the Ivorian authorities in maintaining a secure environment for the completion of the peace process, in particular during the sensitive electoral process. UNOCI will also continue to monitor and investigate human rights violations, with a particular focus on helping combat violence against women and children, as well as any incident that has an impact on the electoral process. I call on the Ivorian parties to develop and implement the necessary confidence-building measures to prevent human rights violations, including those related to possible electoral violence.

56. Successful elections will pave the way for the drawdown and withdrawal of UNOCI from Côte d'Ivoire. As noted in my previous report, while UNOCI and the United Nations country team continue to develop the transition plans, consultations will be required with the newly elected Government regarding the nature of any future engagement of the United Nations in Côte d'Ivoire after the elections.

57. In conclusion, I would like to express my appreciation to my Special Representative for Côte d'Ivoire and to all UNOCI military, police and civilian personnel for their continued commitment to supporting the peace process. I am also grateful to the Facilitator of the Ivorian peace process, President Compaoré of Burkina Faso, for his tireless facilitation efforts. Finally, I thank all troop- and police-contributing countries, ECOWAS, the African Union, the United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, humanitarian organizations and multilateral and bilateral donors, as well as international and local non-governmental organizations, for their important contributions to the return of peace and stability in Côte d'Ivoire.

Annex I

Benchmarks and indicators of progress in key areas of the Ouagadougou Agreement and its supplementary agreements

Benchmarks	*Indicators of progress*	*Timeline (2009)*	*Status of implementation*
Disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of former combatants/dismantling of the militias	• Profiling and cantonment of 5,000 Forces nouvelles elements at four sites in the north	29 September	• Partially in progress
	• Deployment of 8,000 mixed brigade police and gendarmerie elements under supervision of the Integrated Command Centre		• Partially under way, but at slow pace
	• Storage of weapons by the Integrated Command Centre under the supervision of the impartial forces		• Partially in progress and partially under negotiation
	• Profiling and dismantling of militia groups		• Partially completed
	• Payment of $1,000 demobilization package to former combatants and militias		• Under negotiation
	• Reinsertion of demobilized combatants and militias		• Partially in progress and partially under negotiation
Elections	• Identification and voter registration	30 June	• Completed
	• Reconstitution of lost or destroyed civil registers	21 May	• Completed
	• Provision of security during the electoral process by the Integrated Command Centre, with the support of UNOCI		• In progress, with delays
	• Data processing and establishment of the provisional voter list	August and September	• In progress, with delays

Benchmarks	*Indicators of progress*	*Timeline (2009)*	*Status of implementation*
	• Submission of candidacies	26 August-16 October	• In progress
	• Settlement of disputes pertaining to voters' registration	September	
	• Publication of the final voter list and elaboration of the new electoral map	September and October	
	• Production and distribution of national identity and voter cards	October and November	
	• Preparation of the 11,000 voting sites, including transportation of the sensitive and non-sensitive electoral cargo to the sites	November	
	• Electoral campaign	November	
	• Polling and announcement of election results	29 November and early December	
Complete restoration of State authority	• Effective and complete redeployment of the *corps préfectoral*		• Partially in progress
	• Transfer of authority from zone commanders to the *corps préfectoral*		• Partially in progress
	• Centralization of the treasury in the north		• Partially in progress
	• Deployment of mixed police and gendarmerie units in the north		• Partially in progress and partially under negotiation
	• Deployment of magistrates and court clerks supported by the judicial police, expected to play a role in adjudicating electoral disputes and civil law matters		• Partially in progress and partially under negotiation

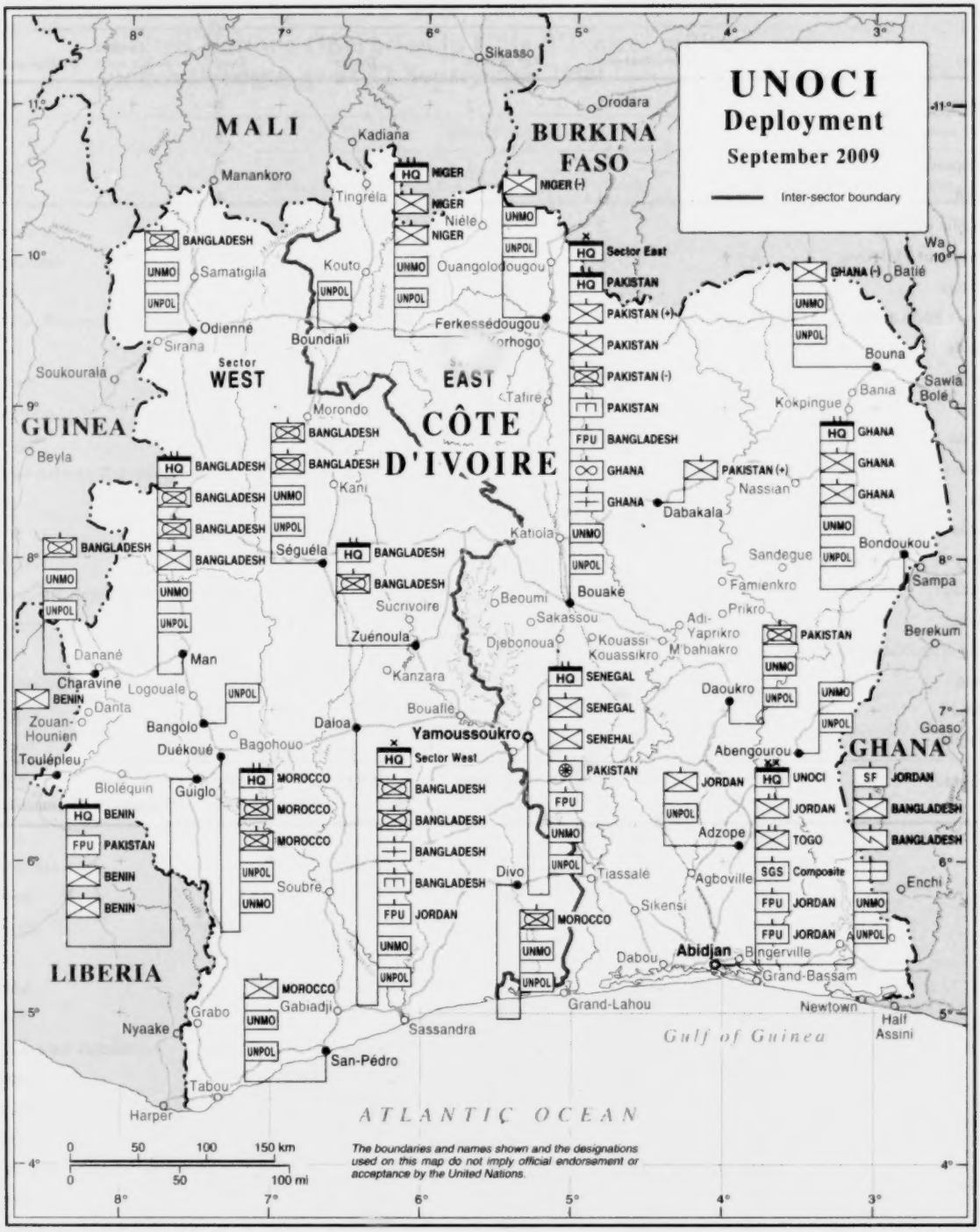
Benchmarks	*Indicators of progress*	*Timeline (2009)*	*Status of implementation*
	• Deployment of correction officers and prison directors		• Partially in progress and partially under negotiation
	• Deployment of other civil servants, including agents of line ministries		• Under way, but at slow pace
Commencement of security sector reform	• Negotiations on reunification issues		• Partially in progress
	• Adoption of all relevant decrees governing the reunification of the two armies		• Pending
	• Full operational capacity of the Integrated Command Centre		• Partially under way, but at slow pace
	• Integration of Forces nouvelles elements recruited in 2001 in the new national army		• Partially in progress
	• Deployment of mixed police and gendarmerie units for securing the electoral process		• Under way, but at slow pace

Annex II

United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire: military and police strength as at 22 September 2009

	Military component				*Police components*	
Country	*Military observers*	*Staff officers*	*Troops*	*Total*	*Formed police units*	*Civilian police*
Argentina						3
Bangladesh	14	10	2 702	2 096	249	
Benin	8	8	420	436		57
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	3			3		
Brazil	4	3		7		
Burundi						20
Cameroon						48
Canada						6
Central African Republic						9
Chad	2	1		3		26
China	7			7		
Djibouti						39
Democratic Republic of the Congo						20
Ecuador	2			2		
Egypt		1		1		
El Salvador	3			3		
Ethiopia	2			2		
Finland						1
France	2	8		10		12
Gambia	3			3		
Ghana	6	8	534	548		15
Guatemala	5			5		
Guinea	3			3		
Hungary						1
India	7			7		
Ireland	2			2		
Jordan	7	11	1 046	1 064	374	14
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya						2
Morocco		3	723	726		
Namibia	2			2		
Nepal	3	1		4		
Niger	6	4	382	392		60
Nigeria	8			8		
Pakistan	12	11	1 126	1 149	125	1

	Military component				*Police components*	
Country	*Military observers*	*Staff officers*	*Troops*	*Total*	*Formed police units*	*Civilian police*
Paraguay	7	2		9		
Peru	3			3		
Philippines	4	3		7		
Poland	4			4		
Republic of Korea	2			2		
Republic of Moldova	3			3		
Romania	7			7		
Russian Federation	7			7		
Rwanda						3
Senegal	9	6	321	336		51
Serbia	3			3		
Sweden						1
Switzerland						4
Togo	7	5	308	320		18
Tunisia	7	4		11		
Turkey						14
Uruguay	2			2		3
Uganda	3	2		5		
United Republic of Tanzania	1	2		3		
Yemen	9	1		10		4
Zambia	2			2		
Zimbabwe	1			1		
Total	**192**	**94**	**6 932**	**7 218 (Female-94)**	**748 (Female-2)**	**432 (Female-21)**



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Security Council

Distr.: General
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Letter dated 28 September 2009 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Secretary-General

On behalf of the members of the Security Council, I have the honour to express our sincere gratitude for the preparation of the report of the Secretary-General dated 21 May 2009 on the administrative and budgetary aspects of the options for possible locations for the archives of the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia and the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda and the seat of the residual mechanism(s) for the Tribunals (S/2009/258).

Referring to recommendations (l) and (m) in paragraph 259 of the report, I would like to confirm that the members of the Security Council welcome those recommendations and request that the Secretary-General write to the Presidents of the Tribunals to ask that they ensure that the tasks listed in recommendation (l) are carried out as part of their completion strategies, and that they report to the Security Council on their progress in implementing these tasks as set out in recommendation (m) as part of their regular reporting on the completion strategies. In relation to recommendation (l)(ii), the members of the Security Council wish to emphasize that the Tribunals are requested to consider and report in detail on the possible ways to review witness protection orders and decisions with a view to withdrawing or varying those that are no longer necessary, as well as on concrete steps to be taken by the Tribunals towards this end.

I would be most grateful if you could write to the Presidents of the Tribunals in the above terms.

(*Signed*) Susan **Rice**
President of the Security Council

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United Nations S/2009/497

Security Council

Distr.: General
30 September 2009

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Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo

I. Introduction

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to Security Council resolution 1244 (1999), by which the Council decided to establish the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) and requested that I report at regular intervals on the implementation of the mandate of UNMIK. The present report covers the activities of UNMIK, and developments related thereto, from 1 June to 15 September 2009.

II. Political situation and priorities of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo

2. The changing circumstances on the ground since Kosovo's declaration of independence and the deployment of the European Union Rule of Law Mission (EULEX) in Kosovo have led to the gradual adjustment of the profile and size of UNMIK. UNMIK has successfully concluded its reconfiguration and had reached the authorized strength of 510 personnel as at 1 July.

3. In line with my reports of 12 June 2008 (S/2008/354) and of 24 November 2008 (S/2008/692) and the Security Council presidential statement of 26 November 2008 (S/PRST/2008/44), UNMIK, as reconfigured, continues to carry out the functions set out in these reports. Other actors, such as the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and EULEX, play increasingly important roles that complement those of UNMIK, within the framework of Security Council resolution 1244 (1999). UNMIK is uniquely positioned to act as a facilitator in situations where the underlying disagreement over the status of Kosovo has inhibited practical progress in several areas. The overarching objective of UNMIK is to promote security and stability in Kosovo and in the Balkans, through its engagement with all communities in Kosovo, as well as with Pristina and Belgrade, in cooperation with international actors.

4. The UNMIK Office for Community Support and Facilitation, created as part of the reconfiguration of UNMIK, is tasked with monitoring, reporting and facilitation functions, as well as with residual external representation and economic coordination functions. It facilitates engagement and cooperation by all sides in

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implementing practical solutions in areas of mutual concern, in close coordination with the United Nations Office in Belgrade and the UNMIK Office of Political Affairs. Special emphasis is placed on supporting minority communities throughout Kosovo, including internally displaced persons temporarily residing in camps in northern Kosovo, on returns and integration, and human rights monitoring. At the same time, OSCE has continued to take on greater responsibility for comprehensive monitoring of issues relating to communities, ensuring that the rights and interests of all communities are protected.

5. In line with my report of 24 November 2008 and the Security Council presidential statement of 26 November 2008, EULEX has continued to operate under the overall authority and within the status-neutral framework of the United Nations. UNMIK and EULEX regularly exchange information and coordinate effectively at all levels, including through the UNMIK Rule of Law Liaison Office. EULEX continued to build up its presence to the current total of 1,651 international and 998 local employees. As at 1 July, the UNMIK Rule of Law Liaison Office was comprised of 12 civilians and 8 police officers. UNMIK continues to facilitate the deployment of EULEX by providing access to shared facilities in Pristina and Mitrovica.

III. Engagement with Pristina and Belgrade and practical arrangements

6. My Special Representative, Lamberto Zannier, has operated against a political background in which decision-making by the authorities in Pristina and Belgrade is influenced by concerns over how the International Court of Justice might interpret their actions in its consideration of the request of the General Assembly to the Court for an advisory opinion on whether Kosovo's declaration of independence is in accordance with international law. Belgrade and Pristina continued to maintain and present opposing views on the status of Kosovo. In Pristina, occasional calls for the closure of UNMIK continued, especially from representatives of the Vetëvendosje (self-determination) movement. Such calls were promptly amplified by the local media. Since my last report to the Security Council of 10 June 2009 (S/2009/300), two additional States have recognized Kosovo, bringing the total to 62. On 29 June, Kosovo became a member of the five World Bank Group institutions.

7. In this context, while the Kosovo authorities opted to maintain very limited contacts with my Special Representative, UNMIK staff continued to cooperate with Kosovo officials, formally and informally. For instance, some of the Kosovo Albanian municipal authorities, including in Mitrovica, have found UNMIK's engagement useful and have publicly acknowledged working with UNMIK representatives.

8. As far as encouraging cooperation on practical issues is concerned, my Special Representative, with the support of UNOB, met several times with Serbian officials in Belgrade or in the margins of international forums. EULEX experts continued to take the lead in technical discussions with the Serbian authorities in the rule of law area. Although the authorities in Belgrade adopted a pragmatic approach to resolving some of the pending matters, the authorities in Pristina remain unprepared to engage unless they can deal with their counterparts in Belgrade directly as equals, which remains unacceptable to Belgrade.

9. UNMIK continued its efforts to achieve durable solutions for the protection of Serbian cultural heritage in Kosovo. In July, my Special Representative discussed this matter with the authorities in Belgrade. He also engaged extensively with the main international stakeholders, including with the European Union (EU), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the Council of Europe, in order to find a formula for cooperation that would be acceptable to the authorities in Belgrade and Pristina, as well as to the Serbian Orthodox Church.

IV. Northern Kosovo

10. The three Kosovo Serb-majority municipalities in the north continued to function with few links to the authorities in Pristina, with whom they interact rarely and almost exclusively through UNMIK. The political leadership in northern Kosovo continues to consider UNMIK and the Kosovo Force (KFOR) as the only legitimate international presence under Security Council resolution 1244 (1999), and maintains its firm non-acceptance of any institutions or symbols, real or perceived, of the Kosovo authorities. The deployment or operations in the north of any structures affiliated with Pristina, including customs, courts and railways, continued to be met with Kosovo Serb opposition.

11. Despite operating within the status-neutral framework of the United Nations, EULEX is perceived by some Kosovo Serb leaders as supporting the interests of the Kosovo authorities. Northern Kosovo Serbs, supported by the local clergy, initiated a petition campaign against EULEX and criticized the Government of Serbia for allegedly putting pressure on northern Kosovo leaders and giving up Kosovo in exchange for support of its EU aspirations.

12. In these circumstances, the main function of UNMIK in the north continued to be to engage on a daily basis with all communities in order to facilitate dialogue on a range of issues and ensure links with Pristina through its regional office and the UNMIK Administration in northern Mitrovica, as required. The UNMIK presence in the northern municipalities also served as a bridge between EULEX and local political leaders, who remain reluctant to communicate directly with EULEX. In this context, it is important to underscore the unique role of UNMIK in providing mediation services to both communities and international organizations operating in the north.

V. Elections and decentralization

13. On 16 June, the Kosovo authorities announced that municipal elections would be held on 15 November, and called on the Central Election Commission to begin the necessary preparations for their organization. The refusal of Kosovo Serbs in the north to recognize or accept the forthcoming elections will make it difficult for the Commission to organize elections there, except in the few non-Serb enclaves in the north. The Commission is prepared to hold elections in all other areas populated by Kosovo Serbs and other communities.

14. For the first time since it was deployed in Kosovo in 1999, UNMIK is not expected to certify the results of these municipal elections, as Pristina has not

acknowledged a role for the Mission in the electoral process. The Central Election Commission will be fully responsible for conducting the electoral operations. OSCE supports the Commission and its secretariat, in particular by providing advice and training in managing elections-related issues and planning electoral operations. OSCE will have no role in the monitoring, observation and counting process. At the request of the Commission, a non-profit organization, the International Foundation for Electoral Systems, will assist with the counting and management of the results centre, voter education, public information, and the training of local observers. There have been ongoing discussions within the international community about a potential international observation mission.

15. So far, of the 76 political entities that have applied to participate in the elections, 35 are Kosovo Albanian entities, 23 Kosovo Serb, 7 Kosovo Bosniak, 4 Kosovo Turkish, 2 Kosovo Montenegrin, 2 Kosovo Ashkali and 1 entity each from the Kosovo Roma, Kosovo Egyptian and Kosovo Gorani communities. Voters living outside of Kosovo will be able to vote by mail and, as of early September, the Central Election Commission had received 240 applications for mail-in absentee ballots. The Election Complaints and Appeals Commission is still not functional as its budget has not yet been approved by the Kosovo Assembly, in breach of the applicable legislation on elections.

16. The Assembly of the Association of Serbian Municipalities unanimously approved on 28 June in Graçanicë/Gračanica the Vidovdan [Saint Vitus day] Charter, which called on all political parties in Serbia to oppose the participation of Kosovo Serbs in these elections and appealed to all Serbian institutions and the Serbian Orthodox church to boycott the elections. In July, the Government of Serbia officially declared that conditions for the participation of Kosovo Serbs in the elections did not exist and that the elections were not in line with resolution 1244 (1999).

17. Kosovo's interministerial working group on decentralization has started establishing municipal preparatory teams for the new Kosovo Serb-majority municipalities due to be established in Graçanicë/Gračanica, Kllokot/Klokot, northern Mitrovica, Partesh/Parteš and Ranillug/Ranilug. These teams are intended to ensure that the newly established municipalities are ready to be run by their elected municipal representatives upon completion of the electoral process.

18. However, the level of participation of Kosovo Serbs in the decentralization process, and in the upcoming elections, is far from certain and there is no decision yet whether elections will be held for the envisaged municipal assemblies in the five municipalities mentioned above plus in an "enlarged" Novobërdë/Novo Brdo municipality. The "Vetëvendosje" movement has launched a campaign against the establishment of the new municipalities, which may also negatively affect the support of the Kosovo Albanian population for the local governance reform process.

19. On 16 August, local by-elections organized by the Serbian authorities took place in two Kosovo Serb-majority areas, Graçanicë/Gračanica (Pristina region) and Gorazhdec/Goraždevac (Pejë/Peć region). These by-elections were held to fill vacancies that had arisen following the removal of two of the municipal governments that had been elected on 11 May 2008, in elections that had been held in accordance with the Constitution of Serbia and had not been coordinated or vetted by UNMIK. While the Kosovo authorities did not try to obstruct the by-elections, maintaining that they have no legal bearing and therefore are invalid,

opposition members and representatives from civil society viewed the elections as an "aggression by Belgrade". Voter turnout was low, at around 20 per cent, owing in part to the much lower turnout of IDPs voting at polling stations. No incidents were reported although re-voting was ordered for at least two polling stations owing to procedural violations.

VI. Security

20. The overall security situation in Kosovo remained relatively calm, but fragile in the north. Incidents continued to occur in the northern Mitrovica suburb of Kroi i Vitakut/Brdjani, where Kosovo-Albanian former residents have started rebuilding their houses, which were destroyed in 1999. From the beginning of the reconstruction process, UNMIK has reiterated the right of all individuals to return to their properties while adhering to the applicable law on construction. UNMIK is also encouraging the return of Kosovo Serb IDPs to their homes in the municipalities south of the Ibar river.

21. On 4 August, a group of Kosovo Albanian workers began clearing a site beyond an area where the Kosovo Albanian and Kosovo Serb communities had previously agreed that reconstruction could take place. Kosovo Serb residents responded by throwing stones at Kosovo Albanian construction workers. One Kosovo Police officer and one journalist suffered minor injuries and two trucks and one car were damaged in the incidents. The situation escalated on 25 August when Kosovo Albanians began clearing work in a part of Kroi i Vitakut/Brdjani in close proximity to the Kosovo Serb village of Brdjani and largely in the cadastral zone of the Zveçan/Zvečan municipality, without having informed or sought approval from the UNMIK Administration in Mitrovica or the Zveçan/Zvečan municipality. This resulted in a series of low-level confrontations between members of the local Albanian and Serb communities in the course of which at least four Kosovo Albanians and two Kosovo Serbs were injured.

22. On 31 August, my Special Representative met with Mayor Bajram Rexhepi in southern Mitrovica in a bid to defuse the growing tension and reach an agreement on the key administrative and technical issues. As a result of the meeting, the reconstruction process resumed in early September. The Kosovo Police, EULEX and the KFOR are closely monitoring the construction work at both the Kosovo Serb and the Kosovo Albanian construction sites and all necessary measures are being taken to keep the situation peaceful.

23. On 2 September, two explosions of unknown origin occurred in northern Mitrovica in the vicinity of the regional hospital and the Kodra e Minatoreve/ Mikronaselje neighbourhood, following a stone-throwing incident earlier in the evening in the same neighbourhood between local Albanian and Serb juveniles. No injuries were reported.

24. During the reporting period, six inter-ethnic assaults on Kosovo Roma by Kosovo Albanian males were reported as having occurred in the Roma neighbourhood in Gjilan/Gnjilane town. On 7 August, a Kosovo Serb couple was found murdered in their home in Partesh/Parteš village in Gjilan/Gnjilane region. Investigations are ongoing and indications are that the double murder was not related to ethnicity.

25. On 11 June, defence ministers of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) announced a decision to begin gradually transitioning KFOR to a so-called deterrent presence, in recognition of a positive evolution over a sustained period of time. The ministers made clear that the pace of reductions in the KFOR troop levels will be decided by the North Atlantic Council as the situation evolves, taking into account security conditions, and that the reductions would be phased.

VII. Rule of law

26. Of the 325 Kosovo Serb police officers who had stopped reporting to their duty stations after Kosovo declared independence on 17 February 2008, 317 returned to work by the 30 June deadline set by the Kosovo authorities in coordination with EULEX. A Kosovo Serb police officer has been appointed to the senior position of Deputy General Director of Kosovo Police, although the job description is not yet finalized.

27. The announcement in mid-August of a possible agreement on police cooperation between EULEX and the Serbian Ministry of the Interior was met with resistance by the Kosovo authorities, who maintain that signing such agreements is their exclusive responsibility. In a deplorable development, on 26 August some 60 Vetëvendosje self-determination activists vandalized 26 EULEX vehicles in broad daylight in Pristina to protest against the signing of the protocol by EULEX. Other acts of vandalism against EULEX vehicles occurred in the following days, and some United Nations vehicles were also targeted. On 14 September, a demonstration against the agreement was organized in Pristina by 23 local NGOs, including Vetëvendosje. Around 1,000 demonstrators called for the withdrawal of EULEX from Kosovo.

28. UNMIK continues to deal with international legal assistance requests to and from countries that have not recognized Kosovo and to play a role in facilitating contacts with INTERPOL, on the one hand, and EULEX and the local authorities, on the other. UNMIK also carries out the certification of civil status documents for the purposes of countries that have not recognized Kosovo. While the Mission also continues to serve as the focal point for matters related to the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia in Kosovo, EULEX exercises police reporting functions in response to orders of the Tribunal.

29. UNMIK maintains one forensic expert to ensure cooperation at the technical level with the Office on Missing Persons and Forensics. The Mission also participates in the Working Group on Missing Persons and the Sub-Working Group on Forensics with the agreement of all concerned parties. From June to the end of August, the Office conducted 31 field operations that resulted in 18 exhumations of civilians. In addition, 17 bodily remains of civilians were returned to the victims' families.

30. On 2 September, the Kosovo Judicial Council resumed its functions with the appointment of new members, after a hiatus of more than six months. The Independent Judicial and Prosecutorial Commission will complete interviews for the first phase of judicial and prosecutorial candidates and thereafter recommend appointments for Supreme Court level judges and prosecutors.

31. Further to the joint efforts of international and local human rights stakeholders, on 4 June the Assembly of Kosovo elected a new Ombudsperson; previous attempts over almost four years had failed.

VIII. Returns

32. Through its reconfigured field presence UNMIK has been closely monitoring returns issues, including actions of the local authorities on the implementation of the returns strategies and the creation of conditions conducive to returns and integration. UNMIK staff continued to stay in daily contact with minority community leaders and local authorities, and to report on "go-and-see visits" or trips of Kosovo-Serb IDPs to return sites to other United Nations partner agencies and main international stakeholders.

33. The number of returns in the reporting period remained very low. However, compared to the same period last year, there was a modest increase in the number of IDPs that have returned. According to estimates of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), 236 displaced minority community members, including 7 Kosovo Albanians, 31 Kosovo Serbs and 177 Kosovo Roma, Ashkali and Egyptians, voluntarily returned to Kosovo between June and July this year. During the same reporting period, 726 individuals were involuntarily returned to Kosovo from western Europe. Meanwhile, 39 "go-and-see visits" were organized, giving 358 IDPs and refugees from Serbia, Montenegro and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia the opportunity to visit their homes in Kosovo. In addition, there were 20 "go-and-inform visits" (outreach efforts by individuals and groups from Kosovo's returns sector), which involved meetings with 537 IDPs in Serbia, Montenegro and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

34. The Ministry of Communities and Returns is implementing seven organized return projects, targeting the return of 181 Kosovo Serb families in Vushtrri/Vučitrn, Prizren, Klinë/Klina, Istog/Istok, Novobërdë/Novo Brdo and Pristina municipalities. Moreover, 44 returnee families (159 individuals) have already been assisted with housing reconstruction in 2009 and another 44 houses are being reconstructed under the project Sustainable Partnership for Assistance to Returns in Kosovo (SPARK), which is managed by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and funded by the British Government and the Ministry of Communities and Return. The Ministry has provided extra funding for the reconstruction of 10 more houses under SPARK. Additionally, 180 displaced families will be assisted to return this year under the project Return and Reintegration to Kosovo, jointly funded by the European Commission, the Ministry of Communities and Return and UNDP. So far, 73 houses are under construction and the construction of 83 additional houses has been tendered for bids.

35. At the same time, 1,295 families comprising some 5,000 individuals have expressed an interest in returning to Kosovo during 2009. The Ministry of Communities and Returns is now proactively dealing with applications for return and is better able to manage return requests thanks to a new returnee database. According to the Ministry of Communities and Return, preparations for assistance to the above families are under way, and task forces at municipal levels are reviewing applications in line with the current criteria for assistance. However, reintegration of minority communities, especially the Kosovo Serb community,

continues to be a challenge, primarily owing to lack of employment opportunities, a fragile economic situation, access to services, and, to a certain extent, security. By allocating €3,000,000 for community development projects this year, the Ministry of Communities and Return intends to place greater focus on economic development and sustainability of minority communities to encourage more returns.

IX. Cultural and religious heritage

36. UNMIK continued supporting the work of the Council of Europe-led Reconstruction Implementation Commission on the reconstruction of 34 cultural and religious heritage sites that have been damaged or destroyed during the March 2004 violence. The Serbian Orthodox Church and the Institute for the Protection of Monuments in Belgrade conditioned their participation in the activities of the Reconstruction Implementation Commission on the continued involvement of UNMIK in the process.

37. The Reconstruction Implementation Commission met on 11 August with the participation of the representatives of the Kosovo Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sport, the Serbian Orthodox Church, the Institutes for the Protection of Monuments from Belgrade and Pristina, and UNMIK. The Reconstruction Implementation Commission subcontractors are close to finalizing four projects resulting from tenders launched in 2008. The implementation of five projects, tendered by the Reconstruction Implementation Commission in May 2009, totalling more than €900,000 is ongoing. Three more tenders totalling over €700,000 are expected to follow pending transfer by the Kosovo authorities of €500,000 from the 2008 budget to the 2009 budget. These funds were not spent in 2008 owing to a disagreement about the tendering procedures. I appeal to the Kosovo authorities to expedite the allocation of these funds, which are critical for the successful conclusion of the reconstruction, led by the Reconstruction Implementation Commission, of the Serbian Orthodox Church sites.

38. UNESCO continues restoration works in Kosovo. UNESCO representatives visited Kosovo in June and August to assess the reconstruction of cultural heritage sites funded by the United States of America and Italy. Two projects funded by the United States have been completed, three are at the final stage, and three are in the active phase of implementation. Of five projects funded by Italy, two have been completed, and three are in their final stage of completion. A joint Greek/Czech project that aims to conduct a full survey of the state of frescos in the Church of the Holy Virgin of Ljeviša in Prizren, which is on the UNESCO World Cultural Heritage List, is also nearing completion.

39. UNMIK has facilitated the increased engagement of the EU on cultural and religious heritage issues and has supported the efforts and contribution of the EU to fostering a normal monastic life for the Serbian Orthodox clergy in Kosovo.

X. Community issues

40. UNMIK remains committed to supporting the efforts of the Kosovo authorities and relevant partners to find a sustainable solution to the situation in the Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian IDP camps in northern Mitrovicë/Mitrovica, namely, Camps

Osterode and Çesmin Llugë/Česmin Lug, the administration of which was taken over by the Kosovo Ministry of Communities and Returns last year. The Kosovo authorities have established a Steering Committee for the Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian camps in northern Mitrovica to address this issue. UNMIK continues to play an active role in facilitating and coordinating efforts among international actors, providing good offices to local authorities and the Kosovo-Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian leadership, and placing particular emphasis on achieving policy coherence amongst donors and their implementing partners, in order to ensure that all efforts are strategically directed to addressing the immediate humanitarian challenge, facilitating the closure of the camps and ensuring the sustainable relocation of their residents.

41. There are some encouraging developments in this direction. In addition to the 102 Kosovo-Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian displaced families (462 individuals), mainly from the camps, who were relocated to the Roma Mahalla neighbourhood in southern Mitrovica in 2007, some 25 Kosovo-Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian families, including 15 families from the camps in northern Mitrovica, returned to the Roma Mahalla neighbourhood in July this year.

42. OSCE and UNMIK continued to promote the establishment of a dialogue between the Kosovo Energy Corporation, municipal authorities and the communities affected by the electricity disconnection policies of the Corporation, most frequently Kosovo Serbs. Contrary to previous years, the authorities in Belgrade advised Kosovo Serbs to sign contracts with the Corporation. The Corporation, with the support of international actors, reached out to the disconnected villages by offering payment arrangements. Some inhabitants of a few Kosovo Serb enclaves, some of the Serbian Orthodox monasteries, and communities in Graçanicë/Gračanica and Shtërpcë/Štrpce, were initially reluctant to sign agreements with the Corporation. Both towns and some monasteries, however, eventually signed the agreements so that power could be restored. A new wave of disconnections for unpaid bills took place in August, which affected Kosovo Albanian, Kosovo Serb and ethnically mixed villages. Most settlements were reconnected by the second half of August further to the signing of contracts and the payment of lump sums by residents. The process of payment collection and reconnection is ongoing.

43. Kosovo Serbs continued to face problems related to the issuance of Kosovo identification cards by the Kosovo authorities, who do not recognize birth certificates issued by the Serbian authorities prior to June 1999. Nevertheless, Kosovo Serbs have applied for Kosovo identity documents and driver's licences in considerable numbers. Kosovo Serbs continued to experience problems in trying to obtain the return of confiscated driving permits, issued by the Serbian authorities before 1999. UNMIK and EULEX facilitated the resolution of several such cases.

44. During the reporting period, there was a concern over the growing number of security-related incidents affecting minority communities that require appropriate follow-up and action by the Kosovo authorities. Among these are the double murder in Partesh/Parteš, cases involving heavy physical injuries resulting from stabbings and armed assaults, stone throwing, desecration of Orthodox cemeteries, and thefts of cattle and agricultural equipment, to name a few. Of particular importance is the return of the 317 Kosovo Serb police officers to the Kosovo police on 30 June 2009, as this is expected to improve the functioning of local public safety committees, grass-root level security bodies established mainly in non-majority areas. Police

officers who are members of the local public safety committees represent a crucial link between communities and the Kosovo police.

XI. External representation

45. During the reporting period, UNMIK continued to facilitate Kosovo's participation in international and regional forums. Kosovo's authorities insisted that it was their prerogative to represent Kosovo independently without the presence of UNMIK or "Kosovo/1244" name plates. However, in cases where their participation might otherwise have been impossible, the Kosovo authorities adopted a pragmatic approach, and did not oppose the presence of UNMIK representatives. Kosovo's participation in the annual Regional Cooperation Council ministerial meeting, and at the summit of the South-East European Cooperation Process, both held in June in Chisinau, could not be facilitated, since the Moldovan authorities did not recognize the Kosovo passports used by the Kosovo officials designated by my Special Representative. The forums of the Energy Community, the South-East Europe Transport Observatory and the European Charter for Small Enterprises have seen nearly full participation, whereas in the Central European Free Trade Agreement the refusal by the Kosovo authorities to participate with UNMIK remains a stumbling block.

XII. Observations

46. With the completion of its reconfiguration on 1 July, UNMIK has moved into a new phase, characterized by a focus on facilitating practical cooperation between communities, as well as between the authorities in Pristina and Belgrade. I commend UNMIK efforts to create opportunities for dialogue and to facilitate practical cooperation both between Kosovo's communities and between Pristina and Belgrade. Such cooperation is necessary for the normalization of the situation in Kosovo and for the stabilization and development of the western Balkans as a whole. I encourage UNMIK to continue such efforts, and I call on all stakeholders to acknowledge and continue supporting the contribution of UNMIK in this regard.

47. UNMIK has continued its successful mediation between the Kosovo Albanian and Kosovo Serb communities in northern Kosovo, including by defusing tensions surrounding the Kroi i Vitakut/Brdjani reconstruction activities, in close cooperation with EULEX and KFOR. In this regard, UNMIK supports the right to return for all, which should not be politicized. I urge Belgrade and Pristina to use their influence to keep the reconstruction process apolitical and to appeal for calm. As my Special Representative made clear on several occasions, it is important that the rules and conditions for reconstruction activities in the area be respected by all sides, and that political and security considerations be taken into account.

48. As the security situation in northern Kosovo remains tense, I urge all sides to show pragmatism and restraint, and to adopt constructive policies in dealing with sensitive inter-ethnic issues. I remain confident that all communities will continue to consider UNMIK and its office in northern Kosovo as a valuable resource for the maintenance of peace and stability in the area.

49. The contribution by EULEX and KFOR to security and stability remains critical in the light of the ongoing tensions in northern Kosovo. I appeal to political parties that will run in the November elections organized by the Kosovo authorities to avoid inflammatory language that could increase the possibility of violence, particularly in the north.

50. The efforts of my Special Representative to engage with Belgrade and Pristina in pursuing practical cooperation between the sides, in close cooperation with the EU, have produced only limited results. Although the authorities in Belgrade have demonstrated an interest in finding a pragmatic approach to resolving some of the pending matters, the authorities in Pristina have presented preconditions that make this difficult in practice. In order to achieve concrete progress and effective implementation of any practical arrangements, more flexibility and pragmatism are required, in both procedural and substantive matters related to this process.

51. I am pleased that the cooperation between UNMIK and EULEX continued to be strengthened during the reporting period, following EULEX's assumption of full operational capability in April within the status-neutral framework of the United Nations. The United Nations continues to support the growing role of the EU in Kosovo and welcomes all efforts to increase our strategic and political coordination at all levels. It is crucial that the United Nations and the EU continue working on the basis of a common strategy in order to address ongoing challenges in the region, and in particular to manage the situation in northern Kosovo.

52. I would like to express deep appreciation and gratitude to my Special Representative, Lamberto Zannier, for his skilful leadership in managing the evolving role of UNMIK and in overseeing the Mission's reconfiguration, despite the significant political challenges that UNMIK faces. I would also like to commend the staff of UNMIK for their continued dedicated efforts and commitment to Kosovo and the goals of the United Nations.

53. I also extend my gratitude to the long-standing partners of the United Nations in Kosovo — the EU, NATO and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe — as well as to the United Nations agencies, funds and programmes for their ongoing support and cooperation with UNMIK.

Annex I

Report of the Secretary-General of the Council of the European Union/High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy to the Secretary-General of the United Nations on the activities of the European Union Rule of Law Mission in Kosovo

1. Summary

The European Union Rule of Law Mission in Kosovo (EULEX) continued to undertake monitoring, mentoring and advising activities in the area of rule of law, and to implement its executive mandate as per its mandate. The Mission completed the first six-monthly report on the results of its monitoring, mentoring and advising activities on rule of law issues, and presented it to the Kosovo authorities, the media and civil society. EULEX began consultations with the Kosovo counterparts on the implementation of the recommendations of the report, which have been well received by them.

EULEX closely monitored the reintegration into the Kosovo Police of 318 suspended Kosovo Serb police officers, who returned to work in June, and discussed with the Kosovo authorities the re-employment of approximately 60 Kosovo Serb correctional officers. The Counter-Terrorism Unit was transitioned from EULEX Police to the Kosovo Police in July. EULEX prosecutors and investigators focused their action on a number of organized crime and war crime cases as a priority. EULEX judges presided in numerous trials, including several ethnically motivated and war crime trials. From June to August 2009, the Office for Missing Persons and Forensics, which is jointly led by a EULEX and a Kosovo head, conducted 67 new autopsies, 3 death scene investigations, 16 forensic clinical examinations, 24 field assessments, 21 exhumations, 43 autopsies of war victims, and handed over 17 remains to families. In total, since December 2008 EULEX has handed over remains of 61 deceased persons to families.

EULEX Customs have been collecting and copying data on commercial traffic at Gates 1 and 31 in northern Kosovo without interruption, despite attempts by Kosovo Serb demonstrators to block access to the Gates, and have started to upgrade infrastructure at both crossing points.

2. EULEX activities June 2009 to August 2009

General

On 31 August 2009 the EULEX Mission had 2,649 staff (1,651 international staff and 998 local staff). Having become fully operational on 6 April 2009, the Mission continued to implement its monitoring, mentoring and advising activities in rule of law throughout Kosovo. It also implemented its executive mandate. EULEX has cooperated closely with UNMIK, including on exchange of information and property issues in the north of Kosovo; and has also coordinated its activities with other international actors in Kosovo and in the region.

At the Joint Rule of Law Coordination Board meeting on 23 July, EULEX shared with the Kosovo authorities the first six-monthly report on the results of its monitoring, mentoring and advising activities. The same day the report was published on the EULEX website. The report is based on over 2,500 inputs provided by 400 monitoring, mentoring and advising personnel. It identifies strengths and weaknesses, and makes over 70 key recommendations to improve the performance of Kosovo rule of law institutions. EULEX's Kosovo counterparts have shown a high level of interest and support, and the Kosovo counterparts are involved in the planning of further action, with joint working groups defining their scope and specification. Training has been provided for monitoring, mentoring and advising action teams. The EULEX Police Component expects to start implementation of over 90 per cent of the recommendations for monitoring, mentoring and advising by the end of 2009. Preparatory work began for the implementation of a number of customs recommendations. The Justice Component began examining the 27 justice-related recommendations to determine priorities and resource allocation. EULEX has identified opportunities for civil society/NGOs to link up with and support targeted monitoring, mentoring and advising action teams. EULEX also met with international donors to familiarize them with the monitoring, mentoring and advising report and its recommendations, drawing attention to areas where donors could provide support.

EULEX legal advisers reviewed a number of draft laws and made recommendations as to how they might be improved. EULEX experts presented proposals for Kosovo's anti-money-laundering regime to the Kosovo authorities, and discussed issues of judicial corruption with other stakeholders.

The EULEX Human Rights and Gender Office looked into access to justice for vulnerable categories of people in Kosovo, including women and ethnic minorities. Research by NGOs has revealed that 75 per cent of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian women in Kosovo are illiterate, and thus are ill-informed of their rights; 61 per cent acknowledged that domestic violence occurs in their community; only 1 per cent are aware that free legal aid is available for victims of domestic violence, 4 per cent are aware that shelters exist, and only 26 per cent are aware that police can be called on in such cases. The Human Rights and Gender Office also looked into legal aid provision in Kosovo.

EULEX continued technical discussions with rule of law authorities in Belgrade. EULEX Police held technical talks with the Serbian Ministry of Internal Affairs and prepared a technical arrangement on exchange of information. Kosovo government leaders and the local media have criticized the arrangement. Activists from the organization Vetëvendosje vandalized 26 EULEX vehicles in protest of the conclusion of the arrangement. Several more EULEX vehicles were damaged in subsequent acts of vandalism in Pristina.

Police

On 22 July the Counter-Terrorism Unit was transitioned from EULEX to the Kosovo Police. EULEX is monitoring the unit.

EULEX, the Kosovo Police and KFOR further coordinated operational responses to civil disturbance situations. On a few occasions EULEX acted as second responder to maintain public order and security in Brdjani/Kroi i Vitakut.

EULEX assisted the Kosovo Police in preparing a threat assessment and operational order in relation to the envisaged handover of responsibility for the security of the Gazimestan Monument from KFOR to the Kosovo Police.

EULEX monitored, mentored and advised the Kosovo Police in relation to the reintegration of Kosovo Serb police officers into the service. Out of the 325 Kosovo Serb Kosovo Police officers suspended after they left their posts in early 2008, 317 had returned to work by 30 June (and one more shortly after). EULEX has since been monitoring their reintegration closely. So far the process has gone smoothly, and most officers have now been recertified and assumed their previous positions.

With the active encouragement of EULEX, several Kosovo Serb police officers were recently appointed to senior positions, including that of Deputy Regional Director, in Mitrovicë/Mitrovica region.

Operational cooperation between the Kosovo Police north and south of the river Ibër/Ibar is improving. Kosovo Police station commanders will, however, continue to report through EULEX for the time being. Efforts will be made to encourage more Kosovo Serb Kosovo Police officers and civilian staff to take up their former positions in Kosovo Police Mitrovicë/Mitrovica regional police structures. Only 2 out of 47 staff who were redeployed to the four northern police stations after 17 February 2008 have so far returned to their former positions.

By August EULEX prosecutors and investigators had reviewed and assessed the war crime files received from UNMIK. EULEX is investigating 50 active cases. A further 1,009 cases were inactive. Of these, 158 were dismissed for various reasons, such as lack of evidence. The injured parties will be informed about the dismissals in due course. In total, 851 of the inactive cases are to be investigated.

EULEX prosecutors and investigators identified a number of organized crime and war crime cases for priority action. In August EULEX launched investigations in a war crimes case, in which over 150 people were killed in and around Çyshk/Ćuška village near Pejë/Peć in May 1999. Kosovo Police investigators will be assisting the investigation.

UNMIK and EULEX staff worked together in the UNMIK Interpol Office. EULEX established closer relations with Southeast European Cooperative Initiative Centre (SECI) and the European border management agency, FRONTEX, and liaised with and assisted the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia.

EULEX considered proposals for an Executive Agency for data storage and document issuing in the Ministry of Internal Affairs, and contributed to the completion of strategies and action plans on integrated border management, organized crime, drugs, terrorism and most recently migration.

Justice

EULEX judges, prosecutors, legal officers, and law drafters monitored, mentored and advised colleagues in the Kosovo justice authorities. EULEX judges and prosecutors worked on a number of cases received from UNMIK and also new cases, including in mixed panels with Kosovo judges and prosecutors. By August 2009 verdicts had been passed in approximately 30 cases. EULEX judges plan to complete all the UNMIK cases that were passed to EULEX ready for trial by early 2010. The 20 cases inherited by the Supreme Court will be completed in late 2009.

Since December EULEX prosecutors, working alone or with their local counterparts, have been involved in 467 prosecutions. The cases have included corruption, organized crime, war crimes, terrorism, inter-ethnic crime, weapons and drugs-smuggling and murder.

EULEX justice staff were active in all Kosovo courts and at all instances. Mixed panels of EULEX and Kosovo judges held pre-trial and trial hearings at district courts throughout Kosovo as well as at the Supreme Court. War crimes cases were among those dealt with. EULEX judges have so far issued more than 100 judicial decisions at all phases of the judicial proceedings, including pre-trial decisions/rulings and verdicts.

EULEX judges dealt with several inter-ethnic crime cases. On 30 July EULEX judges at the Pristina District Court found a Kosovo Serb guilty of inciting national or ethnic hatred. He received a four-month suspended sentence. On 11 August a Supreme Court panel, at which a EULEX judge presided, dismissed an appeal by a Kosovo Albanian convicted in 2007 by the Pristina District Court in a trial related to the March 2004 riots. The convicted person withdrew his appeal after the presiding judge presented the report on the case. The person was found guilty of participating in a group which committed a criminal act, serious criminal acts against public security, and incitement to national, racial, religious or ethnic hatred, and received an aggregated suspended sentence of one year and nine months imprisonment.

EULEX judges working in civil justice in the district and municipal courts in Kosovo have taken over 20 civil property cases, including 16 cases involving allegations that property has been transferred on the basis of forged documents. The majority of these cases have an inter-ethnic dimension. EULEX property claims commissioners and EULEX Supreme Court judges who sit on the panel dealing with the Kosovo Property Agency-related appeals continued to work in accordance with their mandate. The claims commissioners are now moving forward with more complex cases. The local member of the Kosovo Property Agency Supreme Court panel has not yet been appointed. EULEX judges continued to work within the Special Chamber of the Supreme Court of Kosovo on privatization-related matters; however, there is only one local member of the Special Chamber of the Supreme Court, and a further six local members need to be appointed to the court.

The Kosovo Judicial Council, of which two out of the five members are a EULEX judge and prosecutor, was constituted on 25 August. The Kosovo Judicial Council proposes judges and prosecutors for appointment, at present following the recommendations of the Independent Judicial and Prosecutorial Commission. The challenge ahead for the Kosovo Judicial Council is to assert itself and safeguard its independence in relation to all stakeholders. There is a backlog of disciplinary cases involving members of the Kosovo judiciary which need to be dealt with, and for this reason the Kosovo Judicial Council has established a Judicial Disciplinary Committee.

EULEX Justice continued to assist in re-establishing a functioning District Court in Mitrovicë/Mitrovica. EULEX judges and prosecutors completed three trials; a fourth trial is in progress. Two Kosovo Albanian and two Kosovo Serb administrative staff have been producing an inventory of the files in the Mitrovicë/Mitrovica Courthouse, under the supervision of EULEX staff. Four priority cases were selected to be processed by the Mitrovicë/Mitrovica District Court and the Supreme Court.

EULEX judges put forward a recommendation that decisions in Supreme Court appeal cases be pronounced in open court at the end of the hearings. At present decisions are delivered in writing, sometimes after significant delays. The new practice will increase transparency and improve timely access to information for all involved parties, as well as the public. EULEX judges also gave formal advice on the timely distribution to all Kosovo courts of the Official Gazette and new laws.

From June-August 2009, the Office for Missing Persons and Forensics, which is jointly led by a EULEX and a Kosovo head, conducted 43 autopsies of war victims and 67 new autopsies; death scene investigations, forensic clinical examinations, field assessments and exhumations; and handed over 17 remains to families. It had a number of meetings with Family Associations and families. Together with the Kosovo Police and EULEX Police, the Office for Missing Persons and Forensics assessed and exhumed a site near Gjilan/Gnjilane, recovering the remains of at least 11 individuals, presumed to be missing persons, and sent bone samples for DNA analysis. The exhumation received significant attention in the local media. In total, since December 2008, EULEX has completed 88 field operations and 45 exhumations, taken 405 bone samples for DNA analysis, exhumed 66 bodies, and handed over remains of 61 deceased persons to families. An UNMIK forensic expert responsible for liaison with Belgrade works in the Office for Missing Persons and Forensics.

Since June EULEX judges have monitored the work of the Conditional Release Panel, regularly attending its hearings. Each month they monitor around 50 cases. The EULEX Correctional Unit provided monitoring, mentoring and advice to the Kosovo Correctional Service in various areas of their work, and provided prison escorts. EULEX discussed with the Minister of Justice and the Kosovo Correctional Service Commissioner the re-employment of approximately 60 Kosovo Serb correctional officers to their original posts.

Customs

EULEX Customs monitored, mentored and advised the Kosovo Customs Service at border and boundary crossing points with the exception of north Mitrovicë/ Mitrovica, and at Pristina Airport. For the first time, monitoring, mentoring and advising took place with the Kosovo Customs Post Audit team at companies in Ferizaj/Uroševac and Pristina. A number of significant seizures of jewellery and other items, including unlicensed pharmaceuticals, were made by Kosovo Customs. The Director General ascribes these successes to monitoring, mentoring and advising by EULEX mobile teams, who have transferred skills and given local anti-smuggling personnel the confidence to conduct detailed and in-depth searches.

EULEX continued the practice of copying commercial invoices and stamping documents at Customs Gates 1 and 31 in the north of Kosovo, which began in May 2009. The copied documents are shared with the Kosovo Customs Service and the Serbian Customs Administration. The latter has already been able to use the information to investigate a significant number of cases of serious criminality. In addition there has been a sharp drop in the amount of fuel smuggled across the border/boundary. EULEX Customs personnel were able to continue their activities in all locations despite several attempts to block the roads to Gates 1 and 31 by Kosovo Serb protestors, which started on 22 June.

Approved by Yves **de Kermabon**
Head of Mission

Annex II

Composition and strength of the police component of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo

(as at 1 September 2009)

Country	*Number*
Germany	1
Ghana	1
Italy	1
Pakistan	1
Russian Federation	1
Slovenia	1
Turkey	1
Ukraine	1
Total	**8**

Annex III

Composition and strength of the military liaison component of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo

(as at 1 September 2009)

Country	*Number*
Turkey	1
Russian Federation	1
Denmark	1
Poland	1
Norway	1
Spain	1
Ukraine	1
Romania	2
Total	**9**

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